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## PUTIN OFFERS TO INCREASE GAS SUPPLIES TO EUROPE

**The Russian president said Moscow can supply gas via a link of the Germany-bound Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea**

### GERMANY SAYS NO, CALLS RUSSIA UNRELIABLE

"The ball is in the EU's court. If they want to, then the taps can be turned on and that's it," Vladimir Putin said in his speech at an energy forum in Moscow. Germany, however, refused the offer. "Russia is no longer a reliable energy supplier... Even before the damage to Nord Stream 1, there was no gas flowing," said German government spokesperson Christiane Hoffmann | P12

### U.S. ACCUSED OF DAMAGING GAS PIPELINES

- Putin reiterated his charge that the US is behind the explosions that ripped through both links of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and one of the two links of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline
- Several European governments said the undersea explosions could be sabotage but stopped short of assigning blame to any country

### Sept 26

**WHEN EXPLOSIONS ROCKED THE NORD STREAM PIPELINES UNDER BALTIC SEA**

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# Tribal man in custody of foresters dies of suspected torture in HD Kote

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

An incident of the death of a tribal man in the custody of forest department staff and officials has sent shock waves across Mysuru district. The victim, identified as Kariyappa, was a resident of Hosahalli hamlet which falls under N Beguru Gram Panchayat limits in H D Kote taluk.

Kariyappa, 49, had been detained by the forest officials on charges of possessing deer meat. The victim's family members and residents of the hamlet alleged that Kariyappa was tortured by the forest staff that led to hid death. But the forest authorities claimed that Kariyappa was severely ill and they did not harm him.

Kariyappa was taken into custody in connection with a case of hunting and possessing deer meat on October 10 and was kept in an anti-poaching camp. On Wednesday, he was rushed to K R Hospital after he complained of uneasiness, and was declared dead.

While, the forest staff at the Gundre Forest Range said that he had a history of ill health, tribals and activists allege that he was beaten to death by the forest officials. "The injury marks on his body prove that

he was tortured," said a family member of Kariyappa.

Ramya, another relative of Kariyappa, said that she saw five forest guards come near her house and pick Kariyappa who was near her house at that time. "Now we are suddenly informed that he is no more," said a teary-eyed Ramya.

The incident comes close on the heels of another tribal man being allegedly shot by forest staff at a hamlet near Bylakuppe in Mysuru district some time ago.

"Whenever forest department officials come across a carcass of a wild animal which would have died a natural death, they come to us, take us away, threaten to book cases against us and in some cases, even torture us. I urge the chief minister to order a detailed probe into the incident," said Suresh, a resident of Brahmagiri tribal hamlet.

Though the family members of the deceased claim they have filed a complaint, the police denied receiving any complaint. SP R Chethan said he had not received any complaint and would look into the matter.

> **Whenever forest officials come across a carcass of a wild animal which would have died natural death, they come to us, take us away, threaten to book cases against us** — Suresh, resident, Brahmagiri hamlet

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# Inflation soars further, factory output shrinks

Retail inflation zooms to four-month high of 7.4% in Sept; IIP contracts 0.8% in August

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

A day after the International Monetary Fund remarked that India is better placed among global economies that are slipping into a slowdown phase, government data released on Wednesday indicated the going may become tough for the country. According to the latest numbers, retail inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) soared to 7.4% in September — a four-month high — while the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which measures the growth of industry groups, contracted 0.8% in August.

A breakdown of the IIP data shows manufacturing output shrank 0.7% with the most dip registered in apparel, leather, pharma products and electrical equipment. Mining output saw a drop of 3.9%, while electricity output grew 1.4%.

Meanwhile, Consumer Price Food Index surged 8.6% in September compared with 7.62% in the previous month. Vegetables registered the highest rise at 18.05%, spices at 16.88% and cereal and products at 11.53%.

The spike in September inflation will be a cause of concern for the Reserve Bank of India, which is trying hard to cool the price surge. According to experts, the central bank will be forced to increase interest rates further. "RBI has done an effective interest rate defence to tackle the mounting inflation. More 'hawkish' policy announcements are expected to deal with inflation and global economic headwinds, especially from the US Federal Reserve," said Lekha Chakraborty, professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

She, however, cautioned not to read too much into high-frequency data like the IIP numbers, adding, "The overall trend in growth is significant. The fiscal-monetary policy coordination is what is crucial for sustained growth recovery."

Aditi Nayar, chief economist

**All-India inflation rates (%)**

| Indices | Rural | Urban | Combined |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sept 2022** (Provisional) | | | |
| CPI | 7.56 | 7.27 | 7.41 |
| CFPI | 8.53 | 8.65 | 8.60 |
| **Sept 2021** | | | |
| CPI | 4.33 | 4.57 | 4.35 |
| CFPI | 0.69 | 0.67 | 0.68 |

CPI: Consumer Price Index
CFPI: Consumer Food Price Index

at rating agency ICRA, said the quantum of the next rate hike will be determined by how much the inflation print recedes in October 2022, as well as the strength of the GDP growth for Q2 FY2023.

## Man who raped, killed minor held in Malavalli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

A 51-year-old man, facing charges of raping and killing a minor girl, has been traced and arrested by a special branch of Malavalli police.

The accused, Kantharaju, allegedly lured the 10-year-old girl with chocolates when she was returning home after attending tuition class.

Kantharaju, an employee at the tuition centre where the girl attended classes, took her to a deserted place where he raped and killed her, before dumping her body in a sump on Mysuru Road in Malavalli.

> **One day, when she came to collect chocolates from him, he raped her and suffocated her to death before dumping her body in a sump at a construction site** Investigating officer

The investigating team found that Kantharaju, who was employed at the tuition centre for the past 15 years, had offered chocolates to the victim several times in the past. "On the fateful day, when she went to collect chocolates from him, he raped and suffocated her to death before dumping her body in a sump at a construction site," said an investigating officer.

As the parents of the victim could not find her till evening, they learnt that the body of their daughter was traced to the construction site. They alerted the police immediately. A police team, led by an additional superintendent, visited the crime scene.

The police arrested Kantharaju, who admitted to committing the heinous crime.

# DADA OFFERED NO STROKE TO BJP'S POLITICAL BALL, DROPPED

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

FORMER captain of the Indian cricket team Sourav Ganguly's reign as the presidentship of the Board of Control for Cricket in India is set to end for reasons that have nothing to do with cricket. The board will replace him with a former member of the 1983 World Cup winning Indian team, Roger Binny, at its annual general meeting at Mumbai on October 18.

Sources said Ganguly's refusal to enter politics by joining the BJP is the main reason for his axing. He had earlier refused to become the party's face in the West Bengal Assembly elections in 2021.

Ganguly's appointment as BCCI chief in 2019 was seen as a political decision by the BJP. There was speculation that the Prince of Kolkata would be projected as the BJP's candidate for chief ministership of West Bengal. He, however, refused to play ball.

Even after losing the 2021 state polls to Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, Union home minister Amit Shah made a highly-publicised visit to Ganguly's Kolkata residence to have dinner with his family in May this year. Sources said that was Shah's last attempt to convince Ganguly to enter politics. His fate as BCCI chief was sealed after he remained non-committal over supporting the party in the next general elections.

> *There's info Ganguly was approached repeatedly to join BJP. Probably as he hasn't consented to join BJP & is from Bengal, he's become prey to political vendetta*
> Dr S Sen, Trinamool Congress

That Ganguly remains a potent political weapon in West Bengal was evident from the Trinamool's quick and strong reaction to reports of his imminent removal. Trinamool spokesman Kunal Ghosh said the BJP was "trying to humiliate" *dada* after failing to induct him into the party. TMC Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen wondered why Amit Shah's son Jay Shah got the second term but not Ganguly.

Sources said Ganguly was keen on another term but did not find many backers in the cricket board. He was offered the post of IPL chairmanship, which he refused.

According to sources, he was hopeful of getting another term after the Supreme Court cleared re-election for the top BCCI officials by relaxing its previous order. They said *dada* is upset that he has been thrown under the bus after using him for the SC victory.

## India-UK FTA on verge of collapse: Report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) that was targeted to be signed before Diwali, is on the verge of collapse, according to *The Times*, London, following Indian government's fury over comments made by UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman against its immigrants.

"I do have some reservations. Look at migration in this country — the largest group of people who overstay are Indian migrants," the Indian-origin Braverman recently said in the context of the free trade deal that could increase migration.

*The Times* quoted government sources in both countries to say that India was shocked and disappointed by her disrespectful remarks.

## DA case against Somanna reopened

**Bengaluru:** A jurisdictional sessions court on Tuesday ordered reopening of a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Housing Minister V Somanna. The court said that the probe should be completed within two months.

### EXPRESS READ

### IISc improves position in world varsity rankings

Bengaluru: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has improved its position in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023, and is the only Indian university in the top 300 list. IISc has been placed in the 251-300 bracket, jumping one ranking band from last year. P9

### Hijab ban: Apex court to pronounce verdict today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday will pronounce its verdict on pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court's ruling of upholding ban on hijab in educational institutions. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia, after an extensive hearing of ten days, had reserved its verdict in Sept. 2022. P9

### Taps to go dry in city on Friday, Saturday

Bengaluru: Water supply to core areas of the city, mostly old areas, will be hit on Friday and Saturday (Oct. 14 and 15) as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will be carrying out major repair works at three pumping stations in these areas.

## Kerala police probe cannibalism angle

ARUN M @Kochi

INDICATIONS of possible cannibalism have emerged in the sacrifice of two women in Pathanamthitta's Elanthoor.

Kochi Police Commissioner C H Nagaraju said the probe team was collecting evidence following indications that the accused consumed flesh of a victim. "There's information that the accused ate parts of the body of the victims after killing them. We are yet to gather evidence of cannibalism. We have to conduct DNA analysis," he said on Wednesday.

The trio – Bhagaval Singh (68), his wife Laila (59), and Muhammad Shafi alias Rasheed – have been sent to judicial custody. They are accused of sacrificing and chopping off Padmam (52) from Tamil Nadu, and Rosily (50) from Thrissur. The police will approach the court seeking 12-day custody of the trio. As per the police, Shafi is the mastermind. He had convinced the couple, who were facing financial issues, into

Police escort accused couple Bhagaval Singh and his wife Laila from court in Ernakulam on Wednesday | EXPRESS

sacrificing the women for wealth. Sources said Laila told the officers that Shafi had also told them that they needed to eat a small portion of the victims' flesh for better results.

The police remand report filed at Judicial First Class Magistrate court confirmed that the human sacrifices for prosperity were the reason behind the two murders. It did not mention cannibalism.

The report said Shafi had lured the women by promising them money in return for sex.

Rosily was taken to the couple's house in June after being offered Rs 10 lakh for acting in an adult movie, said the report. It added Padmam, who sold lottery tickets, was picked up from Kochi on September 26. The report said Shafi offered her Rs 15,000. Shafi confessed to conducting similar human sacrifice in June, that of Rosily. The report said he first inflicted wounds on Padamam's body.

Later, the accused trio chopped her up, put the parts in a bucket and dumped them in a pit on the northern side of the house. Commissioner Nagaraju said, "Shafi is a pervert, a hardcore criminal and a psychopath. We are investigating the involvement of more accused persons and whether or not more such incidents took place earlier," he said, adding that 'sadistic injuries' were found on victims. "In 2020, Shafi had raped a 75-year-old woman and inflicted grievous injuries on her body too. This indicates sexual perversion and psychopathic behaviour," he said.

Sona and Sunil Singh resist the demolition of their house at S R Layout, K R Puram in Bengaluru on Wednesday | EXPRESS

## BBMP drive: Couple attempts self-immolation

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

AN incident on Wednesday morning in K R Puram's Gayathri Layout brought to the fore the pressing issue of how the BBMP is cherry-picking properties belonging to the not-so-rich for demolition, while leaving properties of the wealthier sections untouched, despite encroachment on drains by them.

On the third day after the demolition drive was resumed from east to south-east parts of Bengaluru, which had witnessed severe flooding from August 29 to September 5, saw a couple all ready to self-immolate after dousing themselves with petrol when the BBMP, equipped with JCBs and earthmovers, came to demolish their house. The house belonging to the couple — Sona and Sunil Singh — has been identified as one among those encroaching the storm water drains.

## BDA Layout: SC panel stumped at use of fake imagery

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

HOUSE owners in Dr K Shivarama Karanth Layout are leaving no stone unturned to get their buildings a legal seal and ensure that they get into a safe zone. The Justice A V Chandrasekhar Committee (JCC), appointed by the Supreme Court to regularise buildings built prior to August 3, 2018, in areas earmarked for the layout formation, is stumped at the blatant incongruity between documentary evidence submitted to it.

For the past 18 months, the three-member committee and its support staff have been examining documents submitted to them before recommending their regularisation to the court. "The complete mismatch between the images of houses shared with us and the reality when our field staff visit the spot to prepare the Common Dimensional Report of the building is baffling," said Jayakar S Jerome, a committee member.

"We have detected anomalies in 84 out of nearly 3,000 documents submitted to us so far," he said.

Five help desks had been collecting ownership documents physically from home owners spread across 17 villages in north Bengaluru where the layout will come up, apart from online uploads. P5